Youthful Actress has High Ambitions

DATE WITH LAW, LITERATURE?

By BERT BINNY

A NOTABLE feature of all Greek legend is found in the fact that so many of the interesting personalities were females and no few of the acts of heroism performed one way or another were credited to members of what is laughingly called "the weaker sex."

Definitely ugly customers to meet on the battlefield were Camilla, Penthesilea nd Hippolyta. It was literally as much as one's life was worth to race against Atlanta. Helen of Troy was, of course, the possessor of the face that "launch'd a thousand ships." Cassandra was a soothsayer of tremendous repute. Electra and Medea shine angrily in the heavens of history, while Alcestis, Evadne and Antigone are among those who provided sterling examples of fidelity.

And, too, there were numerous goddesses in the Greek pantheon, all the way from Hera, queen of the gods, through Artemis, Aphrodite, Athene and their like, on down to the Muses, the Furies and the Fates.

Women in business is no modern concept at all.

In consequence of this state of affairs Greek dramatists had, ready to hand, a far greater fund of stories to relate and incidents to record than would otherwise have been the case. And, bright boys that they undoubtedly were, they took full advantage of the situation.

Both Sophocles and Euripides dramatized the story of Antigone, daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta. The former, as a matter of fact, was sufficiently entranced by her constant qualities to use her twice, in "Antigone" and, again, in "Oedipus in Colonus." Euripides' "Antigone," like the sonnets of Sappho, is lost except for a few extracts.

"Antigone" was performed by Royal Oak High in the schools' drama festival of 1955. Oddly enough in such a very scholastic atmosphere, it was then credited to Socrates who, incidentally, talked enormously during his lifetime but left no writings whatsoever.

And Margaret Johnston, who played "Antigone," was high in the nominations for a senior drama scholarship.

This occurred four years ago. The following year, again in the schools' festival, Margaret played "Dona Laura" in "A Sunny Morning," an excellent performance. "She uses a flexible speaking voice with telling effect. She has the most expressive hands and these, too, she utilized well." So it was then observed in The Colonist, and Margaret attributes her consciousness and management of her hands to lessons in ballet.

Also between 1955 and this year, Margaret was "the Hon. Clare Wedderburn" in Noel Coward's "Hands Across the Sea" and "Louise Mitchell" in

MARGARET JOHNSTON

the Theatre Guild's production of "Stage Door." This year she is playing "Lily" in the Victoria College presentation of "Ah, Wilderness" which opens Feb. 24.

Before 1955 Margaret was "Mrs. Johnson" in "The Boy, Abe" and participated in various concerts and pageants.

But, of all the parts she has portrayed, that of "Antigone" remains her favorite. "It was one part I really felt," she says.

"From personal experience," Margaret said to me just a few weeks ago, "I would say that Greek drama has something no other form of drama has. The atmosphere is charged with restrained emotion."

Having in mind characters like "Medea," that is a fairly comprehensive valuation but it certainly applies to Sophocles' heroine. Back in 1955, when Margaret played "Antigone," I wrote: "This kind of story calls above all for restraint if it is to be told well: the quality and not the volume of its sound and emotion make it worth the telling. Sympathy for Antigone increases, not with the multiplication of her torment, but with the growing awareness of her fortitude. Margaret Johnston played the part with great senstivity and great dignity."

Now it is not to be concluded from all this that Margaret Johnston lives exclusively either up in the clouds or among the cobwebs.

Antigone also became president of the Students' Council at high school and the forthcoming "Lily" is also president of the Women's Undergradu- Society. She is heading for a three-year course in law at UBC and is on the staff of the College newspaper. She states two ambitions or, perhaps, additional purposes.

"When I get old and have lots of kids, I'm going to write a novel."

And, number two: "I want to travel everywhere as soon as possible!"

Also she has views on plays, players and playwrights. Shaw she likes to read but not to act; his "characters are too verbose." Sir James Barrie is "too flighty and fantastic." Christopher Marlowe and William Congreve meet with her approval. Not so Richard Brinsley Sherdian; and Shakespeare's iambic pentameters are too easy to make declamatory.

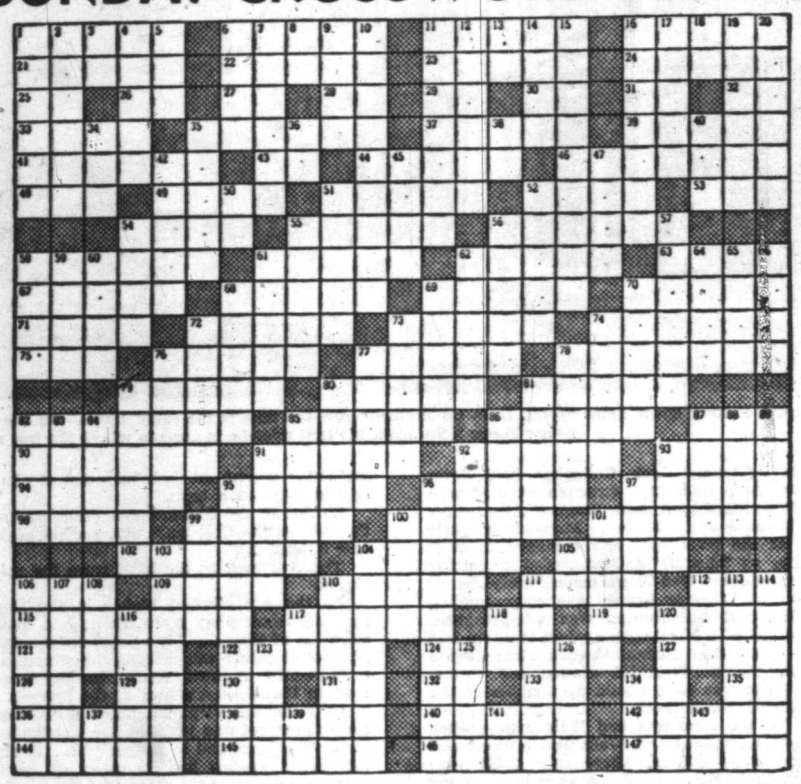
"You have to develop the ability to lose yourself in a character," says Margaret. Then she hedges slightly. "When you are by yourself, it doesn't matter if you lose yourself completely; with others you may foul them up."

Margaret lives at 4965 Cordova Bay Road and is in her second year at Victoria College. Her future will be interesting. Frequently it is said that there is drama in the courts. Margaret, with her legal studies and her dramatic experience and leanings, could make quite a contribution to it.

ANAGRAM ANSWERS

(1) FLOTSAM
(2) ARTISAN
(3) PURPOSE
(4) RESTIVE
(5) NOURISH

SUNDAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Oblong piece of cloth worn by priests
6 Steps over fence
11 Grade
16 S. American serpent
21 Direct attention to
22 Garment worn by pilgrims to Mecca
23 Metal fastener
24 Abyssinian ruler's title
25 Sun god
26 Land measure
27 Preposition
28 Continent (ab.)
29 First syllable of Guido's scale
30 Symbol for gold
31 North Syrian deity
32 A thoroughfare (ab.)
33 Shield
35 Narcotic
37 Begin
39 Small rodent
41 Peaceful
43 A direction
44 Of a certain tree
46 One who used a mason's implement
47 Malay pewter coin
49 Word of sorrow
51 An anaesthetic
52 Advertising display light
53 Elevated transportation line (pl.)
54 Location
55 A willow
56 A fire worshipper
58 Kind of dance
61 Incendiarism
62 Part of apple (pl.)
63 Secular
67 Extent of land (pl.)
68 Wooed Priscilla for Miles Standish
69 Uncovered
70 Authoritative statements
71 Unexpected difficulty
72 Wept
73 Washes
74 To summon together
75 Turf
76 More docile
77 Married
78 Man's name
79 Bird
80 American novelist and critic in England
81 Turkish title
82 One who distributes alms
85 Stubborn animal (pl.)
86 Trifling
87 Large
90 Shaped mass of bread (pl.)
91 Drilled
92 Alleviate
93 Peanut
94 Country of Asia
95 Challenges
96 A water spirit
97 Provided a supply of food
98 Eskers
99 Island in Baltic Sea
100 Chord of three tones
101 Separated
102 Girl's name
104 Flower
105 Famous comedian
106 Artificial language
109 Fish sauce
110 Counterfeit
111 Bacteriologist's wire
112 Worm
115 Cold, violent wind of Mediterranean France
117 Mark of omission
118 99 (Rom. num.)
119 Wandering
121 Implore
122 Obvious
124 Mean
127 Sandarac tree
128 On account (abbr.)
129 State (abbr.)
130 New Zealand native fort
131 Pronoun
132 Prefix: down
133 Denoting unfitship in Lloyd's register
134 Paid notice
135 Japanese measure
136 Disappointed keenly (slang)
138 Compound ether
140 Gains by effort
142 Handle
144 Indian tent
145 Darlings
146 Facing direction from which glacier impinges
147 Unfastened

DOWN

1 Seize by legal authority
2 Scanty
3 Whether
4 Stop
5 Make mistake
6 Location
7 Part of rose bush (pl.)
8 Symbol for iridium
9 A sunnite of Caucasia
10 A flowing forth
11 An overwhelming retort (slang)
12 Scattered rubbish
13 Avenue (ab.)
14 To scorch
15 Stammered
16 Sea flower
17 Beneath
18 King of Bashan
19 Bivalve mollusk
20 Flower (pl.)
34 Man's name
35 Ancient Spartan serf
36 Faroe Islands' windstorm
38 Article
40 Tree yielding caucho
42 Back of neck (pl.)
45 Chinese Protestant name for God
47 Designed U.S. flag
50 By
51 Chariot of ancient Briton
52 Openings in nose
54 Dross
55 Command
56 Was absorbed in study
57 A Hebrew prophet (Bib.)
58 Fish
59 River of Italy
60 Metal
61 Foreigner
62 Natural openings underground
64 Things done
65 Roman road
66 One of a set of 52
68 Protective clothing
69 Diminishes
70 A dukedom
72 Worries
73 Crippled
74 Foggy
76 Article of faith
77 Men
78 Badgerlike mammal
79 Flits
80 Warm seas food fish
81 Volcano in Martinique
82 Singing voice
83 Feminine name
84 Native of the Sultanate of Wadai
85 Grecian peninsula
86 Roman author and orator
87 Loosely matted mass of material
88 Arrow poison
89 Enclose
91 Fundamental
92 Get up
93 Female horse
95 Expanded
96 Winner of first Kentucky Derby
97 Antic
99 Spanish pot
100 Story
101 Sat for portrait
103 Ground gained in football
104 Fresh water fish allied to perch (pl.)
105 Pronoun
106 Tax
107 Enlarge
108 Chemical suffix
110 Agriculturist
111 Body of water (pl.)
112 Hearing organ
113 Gets into a tangle
114 Walk with long steps
116 French historian
117 Symbol for cerium
118 Pronoun
120 Wireless
123 Container for flowers
125 Tidy
126 Headland
134 Boring tool
137 Aloft
139 Symbol for tantalum
141 Artificial language
143 Combining form: dawn

SOLUTION NEXT SUNDAY

Last Sunday's Solution